

8-9-1861

Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1861 August 9

Patrick Guiney

Follow this and additional works at: http://crossworks.holycross.edu/patrick_guiney_letters

Recommended Citation

Guiney, Patrick, "Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1861 August 9" (1861). *Col. Patrick Guiney Letters*. Paper 16.
http://crossworks.holycross.edu/patrick_guiney_letters/16

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Special Collections at CrossWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Col. Patrick Guiney Letters by an authorized administrator of CrossWorks.

Orlinton Heights
- Virginia Aug. 9th / 86

My dear Jennie:

Your two letters
- one of 5th inst and the other
of 6th inst arrived here
yesterday. The one dated 5th
inst. was sent, by some one
of that inevitable and irri-
- tating series of great and
little blunders which
seems to pervade all de-
- partments of the Government,
to the encampment of the
11th Regt. M. V., and
was brought to me by
one of my men who was
over there by accident.
However, the reception of
a line from you at any
time, sweetens the bitterness

of delay. I do not think that it is possible for you to realize the delight with which I receive your dear letters. They are so welcome, so good - so like my dear Jennie, that when I read them I feel myself in your presence, communing with you in that little domestic ecstasy which so often seemed to surround us when I was at home. I know that my dear little darling keeps you busy most of the time, but still, I trust, you will continue to write to me often.

There is no news here of any special importance. The same routine is repeated every day and night - men all sleep with guns by their sides, and their equipments

on. We rise at day-break and retire at 9 o'clock in the evening. We are alarmed (as the military phrase is) almost every night. The Rebels are getting very bold - they frequently dash down near us, but retire on finding us ready. One of our picket guard shot ^{one} of them yesterday evening. We are to be moved two miles farther into Virginia towards Falls church, where it is intended that our whole Brigade will encamp, under General Sherman. But we do not, ^{know} the moment all this will be changed, since in the midst of this whirl-wind of excitement, conclusions cannot be come to by previous thought, but must be determined rather

by this swift current of
events which is upon, and
around us. All I can say is
that the present intention
is that our encampment
shall be changed. Whether
it is changed or not, my
address will be the same as
heretofore until I notify
you to change it.

All the men and offi-
cers are well, with one ex-
-ception. Plunkett complains of
illness. The fact is he wants
to go home some way or
other. I knew, from the first,
he had no sufficient steady-
-ness of purpose, and I felt
that he would leave as soon
as the feathers and novel-
-ty were worn off. Our

Lieutenant whose name is Perkins has gone home to Boston. Bull Run is an excellent exterminator of all those who are, in or have been, in the army, and who do not wish to risk a permanent separation from the tinkling goblets and gushing fountains of the Trenton and the Revere. The shadow of a fight has scared them; and I think it is well for the government, as well as for us all, that their timidity ripened so soon in the hot sun of Virginia.

As these resignations are getting frequent, they are eliciting much comment, not without some reason, as the men who are resigning are those who have never ^{been} within

range of a hostile gun. For my part, I think it too soon altogether to return home. Yet, no man would love to be at home more than I, if Honor would permit. ~~it~~. By the way, Jennie, did you not say something to me about a young Baxter who was said to have been killed at Bull Run? I learn that he is now in Washington, wounded, but recovering.

My dear, word has this moment come to camp to send out one hundred men about ^{two} miles, and I suppose there is some trouble. The matter cannot be serious. The drum is rolling, and I cannot stay in my tent ^{but just} long enough to say to you how dearly I cherish you and little pet.

your husband